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Ten Students a Day Have 'Files Pulled'

About ten times every day the University allows federal security agencies to see students' files without the students' permission or knowledge, a University official said yesterday.

His office, Registrar Clinton Gilliam said yesterday, allows agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to see students' grades and other information.

It was also revealed yesterday that the campus admissions office has allowed federal agencies to see student admission records without the students' permission.

However, the practice in the admissions office is now under review, a spokesman said. "It has been in abeyance since Monday," he claimed.

There had been a "general policy" over the years, the spokesman said, allowing police and government agencies to see admission records.

Last week Jerry Rubin, left wing candidate for the Berkeley mayoralty, charged that the University was keeping files on left-wing students for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Executive Vice-Chancellor Earl F. Cheit replied Thursday, saying:

"University records on individual students, including records of grades, are not available to persons or agencies outside the University unless individual students give specific authorization."

The spokesman said yesterday that Cheit was not aware of the admissions and registrar's offices' policy.

"We only do it," Gilliam emphasized yesterday, "in cases where students or former students are applying for federal jobs that require security clearance."

The reason the federal agencies look at the files, Gilliam said, was to "verify statements made by job applicants."

"All intelligence agencies of the government may see the student files in such cases, Gilliam said.

In other than security cases, Gilliam said, only "public information" is given.

Asked how his office knows that the federal researchers are only checking statements and only in cases involving security clearances, Gilliam said: "We trust them."

"They have agreed that they will gather the information only for that reason. We have no way to check on them."

Gilliam said he had never heard of a governmental hearing where the information was used for any other purpose.

Judy Dewing, a secretary in the Registrar's office who "pulls the files" for the agents when they come in, said that study lists of students and former students are also made available without the students' permission.

Agents may see only the "last two" study lists, she said, except for the FBI which may see "all of student's lists."

"An education is very important in getting a job today," Gilliam noted, "and some people carry

statements."

The records in the Registrar's Office include a student's grades, courses and degrees.

They also state whether or not a student has been suspended or dismissed for academic reasons.

The records also indicate indirectly that a student has been disciplined — the student's record may say that he has been dismissed and needs approval of the Dean of Students Office, thereby implying disciplinary problems.

The Registrar's Office doesn't contact persons whose files are seen by investigators, Gilliam said, because the University doesn't know where the persons are — often they are former students.

Mrs. Dewing said that often more than ten students' records a day are seen by federal agents.

She said that there is a room in to which federal agents take the material. Sometimes as many as 20 agents a day come into her office looking for information, she added.

Often the agents ask, she continued, for records of psychiatric records and medical records. She refers them to Cowell Hospital.

Mrs. Dewing said that agents could not get all the information — except the study lists — by getting students to send agencies a transcript.

She doubts that the only time federal agencies look for information is in cases of a person looking for a job.

Previous to her present job, Mrs. Dewing worked in the admissions office where information also was given to federal agencies without students' knowledge.

Records there, she said, often included evaluations of students by high school counselors and other "informal" records.

She said a partial list of agencies which use the files in the Registrar's Office would include:

Air Force, Central Intelligence Agency, Civil Service, Coast Guard, Counter Intelligence, Defense Department;

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration Service, Internal Revenue Service, Military Intelligence, Naval Intelligence, Office of Federal Investigation, Treasury Department, the Post Office and the State Department.

Agents of federal agencies must show their credentials, she said, and then they may return the files as necessary for students' records.

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